

NOW READY.

The Chronicle and Directory for 1871.

THIS Work, now in the NINTH year of its existence, is ready for delivery. It has been compiled and printed at the Daily Press Office, from the best and most authentic sources, and no pains have been spared to make the work complete in all respects.

In addition to the usual varied and voluminous information, the value of the "CHRONICLE AND DIRECTORY FOR 1871," has been further augmented by the addition of a Chrono-Histograph plate of the NEW CODE OF SIGNALS, IN USE AT THE PEAK.

VARIOUS HONGKONG PLACES, MAPS OF HONGKONG, JAPAN, and of the

THE COAST OF CHINA: together with local information and statistics connected with the Colony, and for the purpose of making this work the more useful, for all Public, Mercantile and General Offices.

As already announced, the Directory is published in Two Parts, Complete at \$5, or with the Lists of Residents, Port Directors, Maps, &c., at \$3.

Copies may be obtained at the Daily Press Office, and of the following Agents:

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Messrs. F. ALLEN, Clarendon Lane, London,
Messrs. BATES, BARNES & Co., Old Jerry, London,
Messrs. L. P. FISHER, Merchants Exchange, San Francisco.

NOTICE.

THE Telegraph having been opened to Singapore, Arrangements have been made to supply Subscribers to the Daily Press with the telegrams, early as possible, after the arrival of steamers from that place, in the same manner as the two Telegrams have heretofore been supplied after the arrival of the steamers, and it is requested that copies be sent for them with the "Daily Press" orders, already in Subscribers' hands.

W. H. BELL.

Hongkong, 17th January, 1871.

BIRTH.

At Woodlands, on 26th January, the wife of GEORGE VAN OOSTERHOUT, Esq., of S. S. (178)

The Daily Press.

HONGKONG, JANUARY 27th, 1871.

As mentioned some days ago, the upshot of the prosecution with reference to the Salt Sequestration office is that Captain Superintendent DEAR has decided on the ground that the matter had become a diplomatic question, on abandoning the case, which has now been remanded and re-remanded over half a dozen times. It is utterly impossible to undertake the principle upon which this extraordinary decision is based; and the mischievous effect which has resulted from it, is calculated to have the most serious effect upon the commercial interests of this Colony.

In order that the merits of the matter may be fully understood, it is necessary to state the facts in connection with this case from the commencement. Some four months ago, a resident in this Colony, was informed by a respectable Chinaman that there were a vast number of opium going on in Hongkong, of which neither the Registrar-General nor the Police had any cognizance, and the Chinaman, further mentioned, as an instance in point, the existence of an illegal tanning office in the Queen's Road West, going by the name of the "Wan-Yee" or "Hall of Peace" and in which large quantities of opium were made on the salt used in the salting junks leaving the Colony. The Chinaman added that the opium was made by a native employed at one of the Government offices, and that he believed was the reason why the authorities had been carefully kept in the dark with regard to the matter for over three years. The affair appeared so important that the foreign residents, to whom it had been mentioned, communicated the matter to the authorities. What precise measures were adopted by the police, or how the matter was handled out, is not at present known. At all events it appears that Mr. Rice, Assistant Superintendent, got upon the right track, and was fortunate enough to succeed in hunting out the nest of illegal tanners, "had coming upon them" having detected that, as they were discovered with all the paraphernalia of a tanning office, and a number of "permits" were issued, showing that illegal liquor had been going on for a series of years. The tanners and two subordinates were taken into custody, and Captain Superintendent DEAR took charge of the prosecution. The case followed its course, and the Chinaman, who had been the source of the information, was called for a reward in order to assist the Attorney-General. On the 17th December the case came on again, Mr. BARNARD appearing for the defendants, and urging that they had acted bona fide in tanning the hides (under instructions from the mandarin), and that consequently they could not be held guilty of obtaining money under false pretences. The case was then remanded to the 22nd day; then again to the 28th, and on that day it was further remanded, on the application of Captain Superintendent DEAR, who stated he had not yet been able to find out whether the papers purporting to be permits from the mandarin were genuine or not. On the 14th the matter was again adjourned from 9th to 9th, and finally, to the 23rd day, on which day the Captain Superintendent

announced that the Canton Authorities had admitted that the permits were genuine documents, and the matter consequently became diplomatic.

Such briefly are the facts connected with this extraordinary case; and, it is certainly not for the most serious consideration of all interested in the proper government of this Colony, and in a proper regard to the levy of illegal exactions, which it now seems are extorted actually by officers set up at the "institution" of the Canton. Officials in the main streets of the Colony of Hongkong. Further, in the case under notice, this system has been going on for over three years without the authorities knowing of the matter; and, finally it is now given out by the Captain Superintendent of Police that there is no legal remedy against any Chinaman who chooses to set up offices for the purpose of tanning hides on the residents of this Colony, for the joint benefit of themselves and the mandarin at Canton.

As above observed, the action taken by the Captain Superintendent was more accurately speaking, by the Executive Government of this Colony, as it seems that the opinion of the Attorney-General was taken in the matter in utterly inexplicable, and it can hardly be doubted that administrative considerations have been allowed to interfere with the course of justice. It is not of course known what opinion the Attorney-General gave in the matter; but it is to be presumed, it was similar to that expressed by the Captain Superintendent, as that gentleman declared his intention of consulting him; and if such is the case, it is absolutely astounding to find a legal gentleman of eminence stating that the law cannot touch men levying dues—which there is every reason to believe they must have known they had no right to levy—without the cognizance and without the sanction of any person connected with the Government; and as appeared very possibly, with the cognizance of some native underling in one of the Government offices, who shared in the plunder derived from the tanners. It is, of course, to be considered that the Attorney-General, with the exception of the Laws of this Colony, but which must be their state of defence, if they have any, is a door for such a fraud on that with which the salt aqueducts were charged. The case it would seem was at least one in regard to which the most strenuous efforts to obtain a conviction should have been made. The notion that men who have been morally guilty of extortion there can be no doubt; and the matter was, therefore, one where the utmost rigour of the law should have been exerted; while the fact that the non-punishment of the culprits would lead to a diplomatic question, as a time when of all others the Government of Hongkong was most anxious to avoid complications with China, was all the more reason for exhausting the remedies of the Law, before resorting to diplomacy, and thus rendering the Law probably useless diploma. Diplomatic questions ought not to arise out of criminal cases, as all ought till the whole resources of the Law have been exhausted. There were simple grounds for Mr. BARNARD, the Junior Police Magistrate, before whom the case was brought, to commit the men for trial; and he would no doubt have done so, had the Captain Superintendent not voluntarily withdrawn the case from presentation.

There are other very important considerations why this case ought not to have been abandoned, which will form the subject of future notice. There seemed to be good reason to believe that it was possible, if good, that a thorough investigation of the matter would disclose a system of bribing native underlings in the Government employ, which has long been alleged to be going on, and the existence of which seems to be strongly pointed to, by the fact that no information concerning this salt tanning office has been conveyed either to the Police or to the Registrar-General, notwithstanding that it has been going on for over three years. Further it seems to be considered that the preceding now afforded, open the door to queering in the Colony ad libitum, until the diplomatic question which has been so hastily raised has been disposed of.

A correspondent sends an interesting communication concerning the public garden. It is to be hoped that the questions which are raised will lead to some explanation of what is being done in this matter.

A number of Chinese, who it seems had not yet discovered the absurdity of the rumor that there was to be a price fight between a foreigner and a Chinaman on the Parade Ground yesterday, their way to the spot, and to witness the encounter, but were of course disappointed. The circumstance is noteworthy in showing the rapidity with which news is spread among the native population.

COURT OF SUMMARY JURISDICTION.
Before the Hon. Justice BAILLIE.
The case of *THE PEOPLE v. THE PEOPLE*, for plaintiff, Mr. P. O. O'Connell, for defendant. This case was postponed for a fortnight on the application of the defendant's attorney, pending the return of the witness, of whose return the defendant is in doubt.

POLICE INTELLIGENCE.
Jan. 26th, 1871.
BERNARD G. MAX, Esq.

The occupant of No. 7, Wilton Street, West Point, was fined \$50 on the information of the Inspector of nuisances, his offence being the extension of an alley with manure.

Charles Gurn, recently an inmate of the Government Civil Hospital, was fined \$10 for smoking out of the hospital, and for having in an outbuilding, a room when ordered to be by the Surgeon Superintendent.

HARD TIMES.
Jamesweeney John Doyle and James Donohue, were fined \$100, the said John Doyle being charged with the sale of stolen goods, and the said James Donohue with the sale of stolen goods.

THEATRE.
Thomas Storey, a native of the American State of Maine, summoned Mr. John Lee, the second mate of the ship, for an assault committed upon him while asleep on his watch. The case was postponed for a fortnight on the application of the defendant's attorney, pending the return of the witness, of whose return the defendant is in doubt.

A CONTINUATION.

Wong Ahk, a Chinese, was charged with the sale of stolen goods, and the said Wong Ahk was fined \$100, the said Wong Ahk being charged with the sale of stolen goods.

INQUEST.
The Coroner, F. Stewart, Esq., held an inquest yesterday on the body of a Chinese man, who was found dead in the street. The jury returned a verdict of natural causes.

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THE DAILY PRESS, FRIDAY, JANUARY 27th, 1871.

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BRABHUISSE.

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COMMERCIAL INTELLIGENCE.

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Extracts.

Danz, no.	1774 Order	Apw. Toks
Ans, no.	876 Order	Cowpangang
Spau, no.	446 Order	Discharging
Spau, no.	411 Order	New York
Spau, no.	350 Order	Hongkong
Spau, no.	610 Order	
Spau, no.	584 Order	Hongkong
Spau, no.	273 Order	Cowpangang
Ans, no.	1317 Order	New York
Spau, no.	638 Order	Cadiz
Spau, no.	203 Order	Discharging
Spau, no.	507 Order	
Spau, no.	501 Order	
Spau, no.	402 Order	
Spau, no.	520 Order	
Ans, no.	938 Lang, Heard & Co	New York
Ans, no.	551 Heard & Co	Hongkong

proprietor, by W. H. Bax, 71 Nathan Street, Singapore